

**THE SECRETS OF THE SOUTH OF ITALY - 11-16 September 2009**



*Panoramic View of the town of Matera*

This tour covers an area of Italy rarely visited by tourists due to its inaccessibility. However the wild and beautiful countryside offers up many hidden jewels. Our tour starts from Naples airport. Travelling south we visit Paestum one of Italy's most important archeological sites with three well preserved Greek temples whose warm stone glowing red at sunset is an unforgettable sight! From there we leave the bustle of traffic in that area and head south through the grandeur of the Cilento to Palinuro where our hotel, the Kings Residence, will be our base for three nights.

This lovely hotel, set among lush gardens, stands high on a hill above the sea with glorious views. It is well equipped and enjoys an incomparable setting, swimming pool and a descent to a small, enchanting beach. It offers wine tasting of local wines and a half day cookery course.

Our visits in this area include Velia, a Greek port and town founded in 535 BC. The gateway to the town, Porta Rosa, is a rare and fine example of a cuneiform arch and in the town there are Greek and Roman ruins including a rare example of 5C BC Greek baths. Other visits include the spectacular hill town of Roccagloriosa and a magnificent Carthusian monastery, the Certosa di Padula, founded in 1306.

Leaving the area of the Cilento we travel east through wild and dramatic country to the town of Matera beautifully situated 400 m high on the edge of a ravine. We spend one night here with visits to the town and the famous Sassi with strange valley dwellings and churches built or carved out of the rocks, many of which are of Greek-Byzantine origin and the area is among one of the most ancient settlements in the world. Our hotel, Hotel Santa' Angelo, is created out of the famous Sassi. On our last day we travel via Alberobello, famous for Trulli - curious dwellings with conical roofs, to the Adriatic coast and Bari for the return flight to London.

**Programme:**

- Fri. 11 Sept. We will meet BA flight No. BA2606 from London Gatwick at 7.45 am arriving in Naples at 11.35 am. From there we travel to Paestum and on to Palinuro. Dinner at hotel (by invitation).
- Sat. 12 Sept. The morning is free to enjoy the hotel facilities and for those interested to take the cookery course. In the afternoon we visit Velia. Dinner (by invitation) in the port.
- Sun. 13 Sept. 10 am: Visit Roccagloriosa and the Certosa di Padula. Return to hotel. Dinner at leisure.
- Mon. 14 Sept. 9.30 am: Depart for Matera - Visit town and the Sassi. Dinner in Matera (by invitation).
- Tue. 15 Sept. 9.30 am: Depart for Alberobello and then to the airport of Bari for BA flight BA2591 at 17.05 arriving in London Gatwick at 19.00. Alternatively there is a Ryanair flight to London Stansted but details of Ryanair flights are not yet available.

**Price: £1195 (£1095: Friends of Artstur) Single supplement:£40 (Flights are NOT included)**  
(The price includes four nights' bed and breakfast, three dinners, transport throughout, entrance fees and guides.)

**Optional Extras: Wine tasting: £25 Cookery Course: £50**

3/2/09